



## An Ode to the Toad

Another season to look forward to and another catalogue to put together. There is plenty to be grateful for in our 39<sup>th</sup> year in business, and choosing a significant theme gets harder every year. We have been fortunate to have a dream-team of staff the last few years, and their many talents add great variety to our days. Outside of nursery work, Rachel Lancashire is a writer, artist and avid birder who can tell every specimen by its distant call. Her drawings here highlight some of our "other staff members": creatures great and small that happily co-exist with the nursery.

Seasonal and year-round birds flock to the irrigation ponds, maturing hedgerows and nursery buildings. Continuous generations of Barn Swallows have made our potting sheds home for the last 20 summers at least and we note their migration by the first scout to return and last fledgling to leave. They enjoy country music as much as heavy metal but listen intently to radio talk shows of varying themes. There is often a second opinion to staff conversations and intrusions by the dogs.

English Sparrows are here year-round, always noisy and appreciative of a warm greenhouse to hang out in during the winter. They have learned to canvas crops on the floor and benches knowing many insects can be found to eat. Toads, salamanders and tree frogs routinely startle staff picking orders, but toads are particularly welcome to eat nocturnal pests while we catch up on sleep. We rarely spray because we'd prefer to feed these hungry IPM specialists. Shrews and star-nosed moles have been here a long time because the sawdust base we utilize in the hoop houses grows ample grubs and worms. In turn, our crops benefit from the mushroom spore they spread through their tunnels. Families of bats still roost in our barns and house chimney, and trumpeter swans have returned to nest in the wetlands. Populations of hummingbird clearwings and Katydid hunters have multiplied too. Our crops and gardens play second fiddle to every caterpillar and clutch of young reared.

All of these examples and more bring us to the moral of the story. We as an industry advertise ourselves as improving the environment without really knowing or being able to communicate detailed, specific benefits. Our justification is usually our own monetary benefit. Wouldn't it be as much of an accomplishment to know that an industry was directly responsible for the preservation of one or many species? That would seem as impressive as any summary of production totals. The emphasis on pollinator gardens of late demonstrates an honest desire not just to add flower and foliage colour to the landscape, but a diversity of creatures as well. As we try to lead by example with greater consideration towards the natural world, we still believe a nursery really can be much more than just a nursery.

Give a child this catalogue to colour, and let us know which animal they colour first. Or enjoy an adult colouring session yourself!

Sincerely,

Ted, Sandy, Melissa & Talented Staff

## New Species of Merit!

**NEW! EASTERN RED COLUMBINE** Aquilegia canadensis is a native wildflower in our areas' rocky woods and alvars, with vivid red and yellow lantern-like flowers late spring to midsummer. A vigorous grower with flower stalks 2–3' (60–90 cm) tall, best used in a naturalized garden where it can self-seed and blend in with woodland asters, grasses, and evergreen ferns in light shade. It can also tolerate full sun rock gardens with pockets of deeper soil. Major benefits of the native species over ornamental hybrids is a greater tolerance for the columbine leaf-miner, disliked by rabbits and deer, and a great nectar attractant for hummingbirds, bees and moths.

**NEW! WILD GERANIUM** *Geranium maculatum* is a tough native wildflower with 12" (30 cm) tall attractive foliage that turns vividly red as it goes dormant. Planted in clumps under the dappled shade of deciduous trees, clusters of light lavender flowers held 12" (30 cm) above the foliage light up the shade for 6–8 weeks late spring and early summer. Best grown in sheltered areas out of the wind with well-drained moist soils; without watering, drought-induced dormancy can occur late summer. Mix with wild ginger, evergreen ferns, Solomon's seal, dark purple heuchera or woodland sedges. Bumblebees and mason bees love it, as do many types of butterfly.

**NEW! BLOODROOT** Since we started experimenting with increasing its availability, *Sanguinaria canadensis* has become one of the great joys of spring. The blinding white and yellow flowers emerge in late April to early May, hugged by the singular bue-green leaf. Thick lobed leaves expand up to 12" (30 cm) wide by 12" (30 cm) tall. It prefers rich, damp areas of the garden in part to deep shade with lots of natural leaf mould or compost. Leaf stalks are quite brittle so it is ideally planted late summer as it goes dormant, or very early spring. Grown patiently from southern Ontario seed sources; limited quantities for Spring 2018 but increasing numbers in 2019.

**NEW! WOOD POPPY** *Stylophorum diphyllum* is another stunningly under-utilized native woodland species with great ornamental qualities and low maintenance requirements. Large bright 2" (5 cm) flowers appear above 12–18" (30–45 cm) blue-green lobed foliage from May to June. Funky seed pods are a delight for a children's garden. Best used in moist to damp areas with dappled shade, this species can be left to naturalize and self-seed where it pleases. It blends well with violas, medium and large ferns, hostas, geranium and stiff sedges. May also go dormant in a summer drought. 4" pots and instant-gratification 1 gallon are available.









## New Price Discounts!

We have introduced per-order price discounts on 1,000 or more 4" pots (except Bloodroot) and on 100 or more 36-cell flats for big projects. Subject to availability at time of order.

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Fax	1-705-277-9213
Email	groundcoversunlimited@gmail.com

Purchase orders will be honoured for 14 days from issue date. To reserve material beyond two weeks, a deposit must be made.

### **Delivery & Freight**

Pick-up is welcome during business hours. Delivery and freight will be quoted prior to shipping.

#### **Custom Coloured Tags**

Cost of colour tags

Add \$0.15/pot

### Credits & Refunds for Reusable Materials

Available upon return of our pots and trays; must be in good condition.

#### **Prices**

HST Reg. No. R137487849. Prices effective Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2018 and do not include tags, boxing, taxes or delivery. Discounts apply to single orders and are not cumulative.



## **Spacing Guide**

FOR LANDSCAPE COVERAGE IN APPROX. TWO SEASONS

#### Using 4" / 10 cm pots



Ajuga / Aquilegia Bloodroot Bunchberry Ferns Dwarf Geranium Gingers Lamium

Lily of the Valley Sedum Sweet Woodruff Thyme Vinca (cultivars) Viola Wintergreen



Wide Spreaders 12-16" / 30-45 cm 0.C.

Using 4" / 10 cm pots



**0.C.** 

Canada Anemone Bearberry\* Bigroot Geranium\* Daylilies\* Euonymus\*

English Ivy\* Lysimachia Pachysandra Vinca (species) Wood Poppy\*

#### **Instant Gratification 1 Gallon** 18-24" 45–60 cm Bearberry English Ivy Bigroot Geranium Hostas Daylilies Wood Poppy Euonymus Liner Flats



6-8" 0.C. or 15–20 cm

Pachysandra Vinca (species) Euonymus English Ivy

20-25 cm

8-10" O.C. or

#### 2018 Fine print. Apologies to those who need glasses.

30 day NET terms are extended to those customers with an established record of prompt payment in the past. New customers placing an order for the first time are C.O.D. Payment can be made by cash, certified cheque, Interac or credit card. Further orders will be subject to C.O.D. terms until a credit record and references are established. Accounts not paid with respect to 30 day NET terms are subject to cancellation of such privileges at our discretion. Overdue accounts are subject to 1.5% interest charges per month. VISA and Mastercard payment is offered to all customers. Existing customers on 30 day NET terms cannot pay with credit card at the end of their NET 30 terms. Pick-up of stock is welcomed; arrangements for pick-up to be mutually agreed upon. Prices in this catalogue are subject to change without notice. Pricing and discounts apply on a per-order basis. Orders subject to delivery charges as applicable at time of shipping. Rates subject to change without notice. Boxing/packing charges where applicable, charged at cost. All orders are accepted on the understanding that the purchaser agrees to the terms and conditions as listed above

<b>G</b> # = spec	anting uide number of cies within group that characteristic	Ajuga	Anemone	Bearberry	Bloodroot	Bunchberry	Daylilies	Euonymus	Ferns	Geranium	Gingers	English lvy	Lamium	Lily of the Valley	Lysimachia	Pachysandra	Sedum	Sweet Woodruff	Thyme	Vinca	Viola	Wintergreen	Wood Poppy
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	Neutral	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	Alkaline	+	+		+		+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	+		+
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	Evergreen			+		+		+	2	+		+				+			+	+		+	

# Where We Nest

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R. O. R. A. W. C.

Find more of Rachel's work: www.etsy.com/shop/misssittasnest